

January 14, 1976

SENATOR KELLY: The Legislature is in this question because Tom Doyle says that he will "not" sign any contracts until the Legislature has approved and this caused the Executive Board to create this committee to take the time of the people of Nebraska clear across this state...

PRESIDENT: That is not an answer to a question.

SENATOR KELLY: Including many people in this Legislature to...

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly, that is not in response to any question.

SENATOR MILLS: Senator Kelly, I will give you a response to your summary anyway. I was at one of those hearings and I think that the people of the State of Nebraska would say that you Senator Kelly have done a fine job in going to the people and bringing this to them. They did come in there those people who were proponents were there. The opponents were not, whether that means anything or not. Going back even further Senator Kelly I appreciate what you have done but the Attorney Generals opinion to me is a significant area here and that is that they said that the State Engineer can accept these whether we do anything or not. I think that is an important part of this resolution, and the resolution says that we are accepting them and in a sense that we think that it is alright to do that. The figure that Senator Kelly brought out to you members that are concerned about 25-30,000 dollars, he like I have no idea as to what it would cost. No idea as to what it would cost. I think that we ought to accept the resolution and let it fall where it belongs where it belongs in statute that the State Engineer accept these.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I will be brief. I would like to draw something clearly and into perspective as I see it. This resolution would be an affirmative act of acceptance by the Legislature. So, in order not to confuse with the words that I use, you can make an affirmative action to accept or an affirmative action to reject. A rejection of this resolution would not be a rejection of the sculpture, it would not be. You would have to introduce another resolution or another statement which says that the Legislature hereby rejects the statues. I personally feel that the Legislature should not make judgments about art. I think that any resolution of this kind goes beyond just accepting or rejecting a gift to the state. The decision is based upon the art and the acceptability and the non-acceptability of it. I can't support the resolution because in view of the Attorney General's opinion I think that they can be accepted without action from the Legislature and I think that is what should happen. If it does not happen then will be time enough for the Legislature to take some action. Based upon my understanding of the situation as it is now, it is unnecessary for the Legislature to take any action. The introduction